crossed the North and Western Africa and reached Sudan and there is a possibility of some groups of locusts reaching India from the west.

(c) (i) Constant vigilance is being kept on locust activity in the Scheduled Desert Area;

(ii) Regular interaction is being maintained between the Locust Control Organisations of India, Pakistan and the FAO;

(iii) The State Governments concerned have been alerted;

(iv) Locust Warning Organisation has been geared up through mobilisation of manpawer, vehicles, equipment, pesticides etc.; and

(v) A detailed contingency plan has been drawn up for the deployment of men and material at startegic locations to tackle any emergent situation.

1364. [*Transferred to the 9th August, 1988*].

Recruitment of handicapped in Central Services

1365. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a special time bound Programme to recruit handicapped persons in Central Services recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the percentage fixed in this regard; and

(c) whether any guidelines and instructions have been issued to the various departments to expedite the recruitment in favour of such persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have reserved 3 per cent vacancies for the physically handicapped in Group C & D posts in Central Government Ministries/Deptts. and cooperable posts in Central Government Public Sector Undertakings. The reservations are 1 per cent each for the blind, deaf and for the orthopaedically handicapped. Special recruitment of blind and deaf persons has been done against backlog of vacancies available in Delhi in Central Government Ministries/Deptts. in respect of Group C & D posts.

An attempt is being made to fill up the backlog of vacancies in Offices outside Delhi by 31.12.1988 in respect of the blind and the deaf.

(c) Guidelines and instructions have been issued from time to time to various Ministries/Departments to expedite the recruitment of the handicapped.

Promotion of Cashew Nut Cultivation

1366. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Cashew Nut Board to promote Cashew Nut Cultivation, processing and export as an integrated operation in view of the potential of this high value crop; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No decision has been taken as yet to set up a Cashewnut Board.

(b) The question does not arise.

Analysis of working of AIR and Doordarshan

1367. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any critical analysis with regard to the functioning of the AIR and Doordarshan has been made to know how far the official media are fulfilling their role in projecting the views of the

various political parties in the country besides the general public on matters of national and international importance objectively, fairly and without any bias and in treating the sensitive issues with professionalism;

(b) if so, when and by which authority such an analysis was made and what is the outcome thereof;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) if answer to (a) be in the negative whether Government propose to do such an analysis of the working of the AIR and Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir Both All India Radio and Doordarshan adhere to the news policy and guidelines prepared by the Advisory Committee on official media. In selection of news and in news editing the electronic media are guided by the highest possible professional standards. Newsworthiness determines the criteria for selection of news, and its treatment and presentation is directly related to the special characteristics of each medium as well as the target audiences.

(d) The working of Ali India Radio and Doordarshan already comes in for critical review periodically in both Houses of Parliament and in the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As such, there is no felt need for any examination of the functioning of All India Radio and Doordarshan by an independent authority.

Malpractices in Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Understakings

1368. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of employing people for paper only and pocketing their salaries was recently unearthed in the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the amount embezzled and the action taken by Government against the officials involved; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to plug the loopholes in the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Sanitary Inspectors and one LDC/Cashier were placed under suspension and action has been proposed against Sanitary Inspector, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Supdt. of the Karol Bagh Zone of Delhi Municipal Corporation for alleged embesslement of Rs. 24,064.00 by recording fictitious names of 50 Muster Roll workers in the Muster Roll for the month of May, 1988.

Cashier and Asstt. Sanitary Inspectors could not show the disbursement of the amount and contradicted the statements of each other. The Asstt. Sanitary Inspectors failed to produce all those workers whose names were recorded in the Muster Roll and during test check the workers were not found at the address recorded on Muster Roll.

(c) Checking at the time of disbursement of wages has been intensified to ascertain the authenticity and genuiness of the workers employed for particular job. The maintenance staff has been directed to work within the Rules and Regulations of the Undertaking.

Drought relief measures in Himachal Pradesh

1369. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for drought relief measures taken in Himachal Pradesh during the year 1987-88; and

(b) the Central share therein?